

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

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COUNTRY East Germany REPORTTOPIC Military Information from the Templin Troop Training GroundsEVALUATION [REDACTED] PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED]DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 5 February 1954REFERENCES [REDACTED]PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) [REDACTED]REMARKS [REDACTED]This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. On 5 January 1954, Camps Hammelspring and Kannenburg at the Templin training grounds were occupied by only guard details. The barriers on the entrances were guarded, and camp and training area were patrolled by sentries. [REDACTED] 25X1

2. On 5 January, the new barracks installation northwest of Vogelsang was occupied to capacity by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery and tank insignia, black-bordered crimson epaulets and black-bordered black epaulets. Between 22 December 1953 and 5 January 1954, [REDACTED] rous officers, including officers of the komandatura, leave to the USSR, to pick up their families. [REDACTED] prior to 5 January, 20 [REDACTED] barracks buildings [REDACTED] had been completed. The installations included 2 sewage systems and 2 pumping stations. About 300 workers were employed at the construction site there. Labor force was to be increased in spring. Apartment houses for officer families and a large stadium were scheduled to be constructed. [REDACTED] 25X1

[REDACTED] Supply vehicles of the camp exclusively went to, and arrived from the direction of Zehdenick. 25X1

3. On 18 December, [REDACTED] the new barracks installation northwest of Vogelsang was being surrounded by a board fence, about 2 meters high. Additional areas southeast of the present construction site were being prepared for construction. Construction material was continually being shipped there. A narrow-gauge railroad line was being laid along the dirt road between Jagen (forest section) [REDACTED] 25X1
- The track ended in Jagen 238 at a place, where a shed for the storage of material was being built by the Bauunion. Between 23 December 1953 and 5 January 1954, there was no activity at the construction site. Work was to be resumed and additional workers allegedly were to be employed when weather conditions would have improved. [REDACTED] 25X1

4. On 17 December, the Kannenburg firing range was put off limits because of firing practices. Residents from Annenwalde and Beutel stated that, on 17 December, about 60 trucks towing guns including AA guns, and about 30 trucks towing AA guns passed through Annenwalde and Beutel respectively. The columns allegedly came from the direction of Prenzlau. At about 10 a.m. on 18 December, heavy fire of guns, including AA guns, was heard from the direction of Himmelpfort and, at about 11 a.m.,

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heavy artillery fire was heard from the direction of Placht. During the nights on 18 and 19, only individual reports of artillery were heard.<sup>1</sup> In the afternoon on 20 December, 8 T-34 tank chassis engaged in driving practice in the tank training area near the Beutel forestry. At about 9 a.m. on 21 December, 47 tanks

and SU-152 guns, were seen en route from Hammelspring to the fire observation tower in Jagen No 75. At about noon on the same day, 7 SU-152 guns and 11 tanks were seen in the tank training area in Jagen No 75.<sup>2</sup> Artillery and AAA fire continued until 21 December. Reports of tank guns were heard on and after 20 December. At about 2 p.m. on 21 December, the guns in the Placht area were no longer observed. On 20 and 21 December, motor vehicles were seen near the tank training area during the firing practice.<sup>1</sup>

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6. Between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on 18 December, reports of artillery and machine guns were continually heard from the area west of Tangersdorf.<sup>1</sup>

1. Comment. Artillery units of the 25th Tank Div, presumably from Prenzlau, probably held winter firing practices at the Templin training area between 18 and 21 December. However, the numbers of guns are definitely believed to be exaggerated, nor does it appear probable that AA guns should have participated in the exercises, especially as the 219th (?) AAA Regt of the division is stationed in Oranienburg. The majority of the motor vehicle are carried with the Fourth Gds Mecz Army, while are believed to belong to the abovementioned division. 25X1

2. Comment. The information does not indicate any change in the occupation of the barracks installation northwest of Vogelsang over reports of early December. According to the tanks, which, on 21 December, were seen in the training area, probably including some belonging to the 111th Tank Regt of the 25th Tank Div. The information fails to furnish indications for the 162d Tank Regt of the division, which may also be stationed there. Most of the motor vehicle belonged to the division. Information on new construction projects east of the installation has previously been received. It appears credible that houses for Soviet dependents were scheduled to be built. 25X1

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